

REMARKS

A. Background

Claims 10-24 were pending in the application at the time of the Office Action. Claims 10-24 were rejected as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. By this response applicant has amended the specification so as to address formal issues. Applicant has also amended claims 10, 11, 15, 16, and 21-24. As such, claims 10-24 are presented for the Examiner's consideration in light of the following remarks.

B. Proposed Amendments

1. Specification

Paragraphs [0009], [0011] , [0017] , [0019] , [0031], and [0036] of the specification as shown in PG-PUB 2005/0233977 have been amended as indicated above, where an underline represents new text, and double brackets (*e.g.*, [[]]) and strikeouts represent deleted text. The amendments have been made to clarify the reading and correct typographical errors, and no substantive changes have been made. Accordingly, no new matter has been added and entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

2. Claims

Claims 10, 11, 15, 16, and 21-24 have been amended as indicated above, where an underline represents new text, and double brackets (*e.g.*, [[]]) and strikeouts are used to indicate deleted text. The amendments to claims 10, 11, 15, 16, and 21-24 have been made to correct typographical errors and for clarification purposes. The amended claims are fully supported by

the specification and claims 10, 11, 15, 16, and 21-24 as originally filed. In view of the foregoing, applicant submits that the amendments to the claims do not introduce new matter and entry thereof is respectfully requested.

C. Rejection on the Merits

The Office Action rejected claims 10-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended the claims in accordance with the Examiner's comments.

Claims 10 and 11 were amended to remove the symbol “~” identified by the Examiner as being unclear. The appropriate ranges were substituted for the unclear language.

Additionally, claim 11 was amended to conform with claim 10 in that the product is obtained by removing the protecting group. As such, claim 11 merely recites an acidification step.

Claims 15 and 16 were amended to correct the spelling of “petroleum.”

Claims 21 and 22 were amended to clarify the reaction step of removing the N-terminal protecting group.

Claims 24 and 25 were amended to clarify the pH range.

D. Conclusion

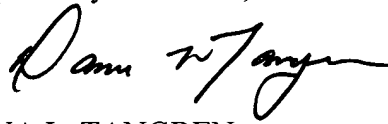
Applicant appreciates the Examiner identifying that claims 10-24 are free of prior art, and would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. As such, Applicant has amended claims 10-24 to be in allowable form.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration and allowance of claims 10-24 as amended and presented herein.

In the event there remains any impediment to allowance of the claims which could be clarified in a telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initiate such an interview with the undersigned.

Dated this 19th day of December 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dana L. Tangren", written in a cursive style.

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